It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.
(Ist Dáil Eireann)

An Phoblacht

Iml. 9. Uimhir 16. 10p; Aibreán 29, 1978.

Horror Block death: Show you care

CHICAGO GETS THE MESSAGE

War comes to Chicago's parade – this was the heading for the picture above in the "Chicago Catholic", where it first appeared. The parade was that of St. Patrick's Day. The banners were a massive blow to British propaganda in the U.S.

A PUBLIC meeting to draw public attention to the H-Block horrors was held by the McNulty-Cannon Cumann, Sinn Fein, outside Edenmore church on Sunday, April 16. The St. Patrick's day H-Block Cage was on the platform and was used to simulate the conditions under which our PoWs are held.

George Lynch, member of the Ard-chomhairle, was the speaker and, clad in a blanket, addressed the public from within the cage. John McDonald was also on the blanket in the cage, his second such appearance in public as he was one of the original H-Block Float team.

The H-Block cage is available, on loan, to any Cumann that wishes to use it.

The incredable degree of determination necessary for our PoWs to continue their protest in the face of such terrible odds and intimidation is bolstered by the sure knowledge that we are united behind them, that we are doing everything in our power to expose the horrible conditions under which they are forced to exist, and that we will succeed, a McNulty-Cannon statement points out.

WHAT DEATH? It has not taken place yet but unless there are drastic changes in the conditions of H-Block in the Long Kesh Concentration Camp the first death cannot be far off.

In every generation since their first unwanted visit to Ireland the savage and barbarous ruling class of the neighbouring island has murdered and tortured the flower of this land.

Today the prisoners of war in the H-Blocks are being tortured in their bodies by continual beatings by warders; tortured in their minds by solitary confinement in barbaric conditions; denied reading material of their choice, games, recreation, crafts, education; even an hour in the fresh air.

They are being tortured in mind and body because they refuse to surrender to the Crown's demands and to pretend that they are criminals rather than prisoners of war.

Long tradition

The Fenians put up with the same treatment. So did the men in Portlaoise Jail under De Valera in the forties. Sean McCaughey died in protest against such savage treatment.

Only a few days ago two men in H-Block very nearly died as a result of a hunger and thirst strike, only to be thrown back into solitary confinement as soon as they were let out of their hospital wards.

Massive, continuous protests at every level are needed to inform public opinion and rally that opinion powerfully around the H for Heroes' Block in Long Kesh.

Boycott British goods. Stop those goods being sold in Ireland. Look at the label before you buy. That is the very least you can do.

But there is so much more in your power. Think. Then act. Don't let them die. Show the fearful, traitor politicians how much you care for these men who have struggled so hard in a proud tradition that Ireland may be free.

MARCH IN BELFAST NEXT SUNDAY

If you live near Dublin be at 5 Blessington Street at 10.00 hours next Sunday morning to board a bus for Belfast (return fare £3).

Full support is urged. Time is running out for the men in H-Block.

If you can't march, write letters to public representatives, trade union leaders, clergymen, telling them the facts, pleading with them to act before it is too late.

Sinn Fein

Traitor Lynch hands man over for torture

A WELL-KNOWN life-long Republican, Oliver Maginn, has been handed over on Jack Lynch's orders by the Gardai to the RUC on the evening of Tuesday, April 18.

This further act of trechery on the part of today's "Free" State rulers follows close on the renewal of Garda torture, as reported here in our last issue.

The treachery was the subject of a Sinn Fein statement on April 21: "Sinn Fein strongly condemns the extradition of Joseph Oliver Maginn, a well known Republican, on political charges, to the Six Counties.

"Mr. Maginn was arrested at his home in An Uaimh on Monday evening and handed over to the RUC and British army on Tuesday evening by the Gardai.

"This action was taken despite the fact that proceedings against Mr. Maginn's extradition were pending in the courts.

"It appears now that the Gardai have been given instructions to hand over Republicans to the RUC and British army irrespective of any pending court proceedings.

"It has long been established that a person cannot be extradited on a political charge from the south to the north.

"Mr Maginn is now in the hands of the British, charged with IRA membership and alleged involvement in the theft of money.

"The action of the Dublin government of handing over any Irishman to British and RUC torturers is to be deplored in the strongest possible terms and raises the question if a new deal on extradition was agreed between Mr. Lynch and Mr. Callaghan."

An Phoblacht

Iml. 9 Aibreán 29, 1978. Uimh. 16.

44 Cearnóg Pharnell. B.Á.C.. Eire. Guthán: 747611.

Workers in chains

THE PRESENT is one of high unemployment in Ireland, in the Six as well as in the 26 Counties. Despite all the promises and optimistic forecasts the odds are that the unemployment crisis will get worse for quite a time before the situation improves.

Capitalism is in one of its periodic crises. Usually they are relieved by war but workers are becoming more difficult to fool. The answer might be civil wars. In the neighbouring island official preparations would appear to indicate such a plan.

Here in Ireland the unemployment situation is being worsened by strikes, some of them very serious in a national context. Indications are that they would have been settled long ago had there been a more flexible approach from the bosses of Leinster House.

Unfortunately, Leinster House is so British that, all too often, it parodies the British. A case in point is the ministerial reaction to both the communications and Aer Lingus strikes. In Britain the custom is to stick rigidly to protocol and tradition.

Ireland is not Britain. The Irish character is radically different to that of the English, the guideline in Britain. Irish people are led, not driven. A recognition of that basic fact by Leinster House would result in virtually a revolution in industrial relations in Ireland.

The communications strike is a scandal but the circumstances which have made it virtually inevitable are an even greater scandal. Who is responsible? The civil service, ostensibly, but, in reality, the Leinster House ministers, following blindly the British master model. The fact that Post Office workers have had to appeal to the ILO in Geneva is the ultimate comment on the slave-mind of Leinster House.

If some of the blame must be shared by the workers it is only in the inadequacy of the trade union structure. There are too many unions and associations involved. Obviously, there should be only one vertical union instead of a number of horizontal unions.

A Labour Party leader in the past helped to emasculate one of the largest of the unions involved and also helped prevent the revolution in trade union organisation demanded by the circumstances. Consider the scandal of the temporary postmen . . . temporary often for as long as 20 years! What would James Connolly have said about that?

The institutions of every country are a faithful mirror of its politics. This is as true of Ireland as of any other. In Ireland the mirror shows colonialism. The proof of this contention lies in a comparison between the trade union situation in, say, 1916, and what it is today. The structure remains essentially the same, an inadequate worker reaction to gombeenism backed, directly or indirectly, by the Crown. And who backs the "Irish" currency notes?

Man, above all else, perhaps, is a political animal. Regardless of pretensions that some of his activities can be "neutral" or "non-political", analysis proves that everything he does is political.

Work is probably man's most political activity, if it is not his refusal to work unless certain conditions are granted. Man being forced to work under conditions favourable to an exterior force – western capitalism – is man working in a neo-colonial prison.

That is the situation of the Post Office workers and until such time as this basic fact is realised by all concerned there will be no progress. In fact, for progress the workers must be released from their prison.

But only the successful revolution can do that. Anything that happens in the interim will be mere patching of a rotten system of exploitation to which the unfortunate temporary postman is a poignant monument.

Are you a Republican in the shop, too?

LOOK AT THE LABEL

If it's not Irish, don't buy it.

BUY IRISH. PUT PEOPLE BACK TO WORK.

Ceist ait uaidh Hilton Edwards ag an bhFéile i Ráth Cairn

Débé

DUINE É **Hilton Edwards** a bhfuil meas againn air mar gheall ar an méid oibre a rinne sé ar son na hamharclainne i mBaile Átha Cliath in éindí le **Mícheál Mac Liammóir** (grásta dó).

Ach chuir Hilton ceist ar mhuintir Ráth Cairn i Ráth Cairn ar na mallaibh agus an Fhéile Dhrámaíochta ar siúl. Is mór an trua nach raibh deis ag daoine é fhreagairt.

Seo an cheist. Bhí Hilton agus Mícheál in ann maireachtáil le chéile go síochánta agus comhoibriú go síochánta. Cén fáth nach mbeadh an chuid eile de mhuintir na hÉireann in ann an rud céanna a dhéanamh leis na Sasanaigh?

Ní mé an béasaí is cúis lenár dtost i gcásanna den chineál seo. Nó an tairmheon, mar a thug **Máirtín Ó Cadhain** air. Ní bhfuair Hilton ach bualadh bas cé go raibh i láthair gaolta le daoine atá sa phríosún toisc gur oibrigh siad ar son na hÉireann in éadan Sasana le blianta beaga.

Tá freagra an-simplí agus an-fhírinneach le tabhairt do Hilton Edwards, freagra a thuigfeadh sé, déarfainn. Chomh fada agus is eol dúinn ní dhearna Hilton aon éagóir ar Mhícheál; ní dhearna sé iarracht faoi Mhícheál a chur faoi chois; ná saoránach den tarna grád a dhéanamh de.

B'amhlaidh a ghlac Hilton le Mícheál mar dhuine daonna, mar dhuine ar chomhmhéid agus comhthábhacht leis féin.

Níl na Sasanaigh sásta glacadh go hoifigiúil le muintir na hÉireann ar an gcuma sin go fóill agus ní bheidh go dtí go n-imeóidh siad go deo as an oileán seo mar Herrenvolk. Agus sin díreach an goimh: Herrenvolk.

Ní duine den Herrenvolk úd Hilton Edwards. Ach ba chóir do dhuine éicínt labhairt leis chun go dtuigfidh sé agus chun nach labhróidh sé ar an gcuma sin athuair.

Cló ar dhrámaí

BA LÉIR do Hilton gurbh í an Ghaeilge teanga chroí Mhic Liammóir, ar seisean: "The language of his heart was Irish . . . It was W.B. Yeats who brought him back to Ireland . . . Language is the thing that stamps the individuality".

Faraoir nach dtuigeann gach Poblachtóir an méid sin, an lá tá inniu ann, fiú.

Dúradh linn go rabhthas chun an dá dhráma nua a léiríodh i rith na Féile a fhoilsiú, mar atá "Siad na Rudaí" agus "Oisín i nDiaidh na Féinne".

Chonaic mé an tarna ceann. Níor shíl mé go raibh sé chomh híontach is a dúirt daoine go raibh. D'aontuigh mé ar fad leis an teachtaireacht . . . tobar na Gaeilge ag trá sa nGaeltacht . . . feall déanta ar an nGaeltacht ag an gcuid eile den tír ach go mór mor ag Teach Laighean . . . agus eile.

Ach ní hionann an fhírinne agus ealaíon . . . ní hionann bolscaireacht agus dráma: B'amhlaidh a bhí an scéal ró-réadúil domhsa. Chonaic mé agus chuala mé cheana é.

Mar sin féin, d'fhéadfainn bheith dulta amú. Cuirtear an dá dhráma chugam agus déanfaidh mé iad a léirmheas go macánta, tá súil agam.

Léirmheastóireacht

IS DÓCHA go bhfuil baint ag Coláiste Phádraig, Má Nuad, leis an nGaeilge i gcónaí. Ba dheacair dearmad a dheanamh faoin **Athair Ó hIceadha**. Nó faoin **Athair Peadar Ó Laoghaire**.

Is eol dúinn go bhfuil lámhscríbhinní luachmhara Gaeilge i dtaisce ag Coláiste Phádraig chomh maith céanna.

Ach in ainneoin sin uilig, ar chúis éicínt, is amhlaidh a chuireann Coláiste Phádraig blas searbh i mbéal an Ghaeilgeora.

Níl muid leath ná sásta, mar shampla, faoin gcaoi ar dhéileáil na hEaspaig le léachtóirí áirithe sa Choláiste sin le blianta beaga.

Daoine iad a bhfuil cáil na Gaeilge orthu; ach fiú mura mbeadh aon cheangal le Gaeilge acu bheadh fonn orainn na hEaspaig a cháineadh ar bhonn an ghrá.

An mar sin a dhéanfadh Íosa Críost, bata agus bóthar a thabhairt do na daoine uaisle seo?

Ach faoi leabhar nua le Cathal Ó Háinle atáim: "Promhadh Pinn" (An Sagart, Má Nuad, £2.40 bog nó £3 crua). An clú is mó tá bainte amach ag an ábhar ollscoile seo, is dócha, is é an léirmheastóireacht é, más sin an focal cruinn.

Ní he is fearr, mar fhocal, dar leis na saothróirí seo; agus dream é a chum a ngairmfhoclaíocht féin, mar úirlisí leochailleacha, chun déiléail go cruinn lena rogha ábhar.

B'fhéidir gurb i an léirmheastóireacht an rud is tábhachtaí tá déanta ag an ngrúpa éirimiúil seo i gColáiste Phádraig le scór bliain agus tá an Ghaeilge go mór faoi chomaoin acu dá réir.

Seo a leanas cuid d'ainmneachaí na ndaoine a chaithfeas muid a bheith buíoch díobh as a bhfuil déanta acu ar son na Gaeilge i gColáiste Phádraig: **Breandán Ó Doibhlin, Maolsheachlainn Ó Ruairc, Pádraig Ó Fiannachta, Damien Ó Muirí, Pádraig Ó hEalaí, Máire Herbert, Tomás Ó Fiaich** . . . agus Cathal an leabhair seo.

Ní dhéanfaidh mé é a mheas. Bheadh an iomarca spáis a dhíth orm chún sin a dhéanamh go hionraic. Ach seo a leanas cuid des na teidil atá ar chlár an leabhair: Na Dánta Grá, an Chléir agus an Fhilíocht sa 17ú Céad, Gnéithe d'Ealaín an Ghearrscéil, Gnéithe d'Ealaín Phádraig Uí Chonaire, Mná i nGearrscéalta Mháirtín Uí Chadhain, Ealaín agus Samhlacha i nGearrscéalta Uí Chadhain.

Ní haon íontas é go ndúirt dalta de chuid Choláiste na Tríonóide liom ar na mallaibh, áit a bhfuil Cathal ag saothrú a choda faoi láthair: "Ní raibh a leithéid againn ariamh go dtí gur tháinig Cathal Ó Hainle".

Léirmheastóireacht . . . nó critic . . . bhí i gceist.

Tá "Promhadh Pinn" léannta ach spéisiúil chomh maith. Tá ábhar ann don scoláire agus don té a bhfuil Gaeilge go measartha maith aige agus, ar ndóigh, don mhacléinn.

(Ar leanuint ar lch. a 8)

An file, Gabrial Rosenstock, agus Bridín Gilroy. An File a chum na focail don amhrán, "Seoithín Seó", a changas Bridín thar cheann na hÉireannn sa chomórtas Celt fis i gCill Airne don bhFéile Phancheilteach. Bridín a chum an ceol.

Gaeilge do na Cimí

IS MINIC trácht sa litríocht faoi ghuth binn na n-éan. Ach ceard is binneas na nÓglach ann? D'eile ach rois piléar in éadan Gall.

Tá seanfhocal Ultach ann adeir "an rud nach binn le duine ní chluin sé é".

Deirtear freisin go bhfuil Déirdre chomh binn leis na cuacha. Ionann sin is a rá go bhfuil guth deas binn ag Déirdre agus í ag gabháil cheoil.

Céard é is féidir a rá faoi na seóiníní, mar Sheaic na nGall agus Liam Londain? Bligheogaí de dhaoine atá iontu, achan seans. Ionann sin is a rá nach fir fearúla tá iontu, ar chor ar bith. Tá cuid mhaith den sclábhaí iontu, leoga.

Nó b'fhéidir gur fearr "blindeog", mar lipéad orthu? Fear is ea é mar a bheadh seanchailleach ann.

Bliocht – Is fada a bliocht ólta. Déarfaí sin fá bhoin a bheadh tirm nó de dheas dó i ndiaidh bheith ag tabhairt bhainne ar feadh tamaill fhada.

Bocht: Is bocht an scéal é. Is náireach an scéal é. Níl sa mhéid sin ach an béal bocht – duine ag ligean air gur measa cúrsaí ná mar atáid i ndáiríre.

Ba bhocht liom an duine bocht a fhágáil gan chuidiú – níor mhaith liom é a fhágáil ar an dóigh sin, gan chúnamh gan chosaint.

Beo bocht – Beo ach ar éigean é, tá sé chomh bocht sin.

–Cearnach

LYRECROMPANE AGUS THAT !

I HAVE heard people say patronisingly that the placenames of Ulster are richer and more beautiful than those of the rest of the country, in the hope that by so saying we might soften, by flattery, the stiffness of the Loyalists.

It is a well-intentioned though hardly successful effort to get the Loyalists to recognise their inescapable part of Irish culture – names of fields, townlands, villages, rivers and mountains which they inhabit and by which they are surrounded.

But is it true that they are more beautiful, more poetic? Essentially there is no difference whatever except for the accent as they are all derived from the Irish language.

Indeed, it would be a dull person who would not occasionally be curious about the origin of the names, be he Loyalist, Orangeman, Nationalist or Republican. The arousing and encouraging of an interest in that which is common to both communities in the Six Counties and, indeed, to all the country, could create a cultural bridge which might help lead to eventual reconciliation.

A TV series on placenames frequently has been suggested to RTE (but so far without success) and such a programme would be both entertaining and educating to viewers all over the country. Even a radio programme!

It is difficult to know to what extent Loyalists (and, indeed, others) are interested in or knowledgeable about placenames but some years ago, on a visit to Belfast, a discussion started on this subject over a Sunday morning drink (in a golf clubhouse, of course: Where else would a respectable person get one on a Sunday morning in Belfast) and Lugum (to his shame) did not know the origin of the name Ligoneil.

When an eminent surgeon of that city, a Loyalist, need it be said, told him, it dawned on him that "lig" was the same as "lug" and "lag" – a hollow place.

Everyone knows that Tralee (Trá Lí) is in Co. Kerry; but where is there another Tralee? Answer next week!

– Lugum

Portuguese told of Irish fight for freedom

The inangural congress of the Portuguese revolutionary left party, Organizacao Unitaria de Trabalhadores, is pictured in session above.

Left, those invited from Ireland to attend (ó chlé) Ten Howell and Risteard Behal, Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau; and Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtaran, Sinn Féin.

THE IRISH fight for freedom from British imperialism and neo-colonialism was explained to Portuguese workers after the inaugural congress of the Portuguese revolutionary left party, Organizacao Unitaria de Trabalhadores (the United Organisation of Workers, OUT) this month in Lisbon by the Sinn Féin president, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, one of the three Irish representatives.

The congress took place on April 7. 8 and 9. At a mass public meeting in the Bullring, Lisbon, the following Saturday night, Ruairi was among speakers from OUT, Latin America, Oman (Middle East) and USA.

Ruairi said: Comaradas e amigos, saudacaos da Irlanda!

We bring you revolutionary greetings from the in struggle in Ireland for almost 10 years now on the streets and in the countryside.

The people of Ireland and the people of Portugal are both small nations which are locked in the life-and-death struggle against imperialism, international capitalism and neo-colonialism.

Repression lab

We can and we have learned from each others' experiences.

Ireland is being made a laboratory of direct politics – military repression in the development of new technology and weaponry against people engaging in urban and rural guerrilla warfare and against mass mobilisations of people in struggle in the streets.

1,600 of our comrades are prisoners of war; 150 in southern Ireland, 100 in England, and 1,350 in northern Ireland, including 150 women.

This evening and for the past 1½ years 300 of them are totally naked and in solitary confinement in cells in Long Kesh Concentration Camp near Belfast.

"Apart from the appalling prison conditions, systematic and organised torture during seven day detention incommunicado is inflicted as a matter of British policy on our comrades by British soldiers and political police.

Terrorist gangs

Special counter-in surgency British troops – named S.A.S. – murder and terrorise in our streets and in the countryside.

The present commander of British occupation forces in Ireland is General Timothy Creasey, who came direct from Oman where he was directing operations against the revolutionary people of our comrade here beside us of the P.F.L.O.

In Portugal, international and western imperialism have used your country as a laboratory in the control of popular revolution in the political, social and economic spheres.

During our week here as guests of O.U.T. we have visited co-operative farms in Quebradas and in Vimieiro in the Alenlejo where the rural people have seized control of the land and are carving out in freedom their own communal way of life; we have toured the shipyards at Seterave and witnessed the struggle for nationalisation and worker control.

We have discussed their situation on site with the glass factory workers of Marinha Grande and the fishermen's union in Lisbon.

Land recovered

We have met the people of Quinta da Calcada and followed the progress of their organisation of their community at ground level of the barrio and their successful occupation of the land to grasp hold of their future and consolidate the reality of the revolution.

You must be vigilant and steadfast and guard against such progress being taken from you by the reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries.

The advances of the right must be halted and destroyed!

In Ireland we struggle against direct English imperialism in the north-east and the neo-colonialism of the multi-nationals and the Common Market in the north as the south.

New Europe

Sinn Fein recognises, in common with O.U.T. and all revolutionary left people's organisations throughout the world that for the revolution to be realised in fact as well as in name it must be based on the people's power at ground level, at local community level, at the level of the place of work, and grow upwards from that point.

Comrades, we desire and must realise a new Ireland, a new Portugal, a new Europe and a new World.

We believe that our contries should be neutral and non-aligned – but always on the side of the common people, against fascism and against imperialism, for democracy, for power to the people, for the victory of the popular revolution.

Comrades, we have a common history, oppression; we have a common experience, struggle; and we have a common destiny, victory.

Ingleses fora da Irlanda!

Viva O.U.T.!

Viva a luta dos povos Irlandes e Portugues!

Viva a solidariedade de Sinn Fein e O.U.T.

Viva a revolucas popular em todo o mundo.

Successful seminar

The Sinn Fein educational seminar, held in Carrick-on-Shannon, attracted a large attendance and was highly successful. Speakers were Tom Bannon, Cristin Ni Elias and Aindreas O Ceallachain.

Fianna Fail plan to jail sick

Le Dara Mac Dara

TWENTY-SIX organisations sponsored a meeting in Liberty Hall, Baile Atha Clieath, on April 19, under the general patronage of Care, to examine the Leinster House proposal to jail the more pernicious juvenile delinquents in Loughan House, Co. Cavan.

The liberty Hall conference centre was packed mostly by young people, who were addressed by psychologists, lawyers, welfare experts, clerics and others.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous appeal to Gerry Collins to think again on the matter or to make public the sources advising him to open and fill Loughan House, as announced.

The meeting was chaired by Sean Mac Bride, S.C.

From the moment this project was mooted my instinct told me it was wrong on the basis that prisons, as a remedy, should be avoided unless there is no alternative, but very especially in case of the young; and because I believe that young delinquents can be rehabilitated in freedom, with love and expert understanding.

Right instinct

Judging by the Liberty Hall meeting thousands share this view.

The hundreds present, most of them inexpert but with the right instinct, had experts tell them why they were right and Collins and his civil servants wrong.

Patrick MacEntee told the meeting of research done with CIE.

For a Dublin parent wishing to visit a child in Loughan House it would be necessary to travel early in the morning to Enniskillen; to remain there for two and a half hours before getting a bus to the nearest point to Lough House, in Blacklion, there to remain the night, for there is no bus back to Dublin until the following day.

Just one consideration but an important one, in view of the basic rights of family, child and parents.

Jailing sick

Patrick pointed out that there would be no provision for remedial teachers in Loughan House, a rather peculiar omission as a high proportion of delinquent children require such teachers.

Very many of these delinquents, he added, would be classified by psychologists and psychoanalyists as being very sick.

Here was a plan to jail the sick!

Moreover, the more or less normal children, under this scheme, would be exposed to contact, potentially dangerous, of the sick,

What a remarkable contribution from the Leinster House gang . . .

Patrick MacEntee suggested that Gerry Collins was preparing to provide Loughan House as a bin for troublesome children.

Kadar Asmal, Irish Council of Civil Liberties, pointed out that 26 responsible organisations had sponsored the meeting.

Gerry Collins had suggested that opposition to the civil service plans was that of mischief makers.

Surely this accusation could not be levelled against these 26 organisations who were concerned that the right attitude to the problem prevail, in the interests of the children involved and of society in general?

He appealed that the values of a republican society rather than those of a middle-class society shoud prevail in this matter.

This I considered an adult objective. But is it realistic?

Middle-class values prevail in Ireland today because neo-colonialism is the middle-class in control.

Kadar referred back to the 1916 Proclamation and specifically to that clause which promises to cherish equally all the children of the nation.

This was not being observed in the Lough House plan, he said.

Insult to Liam Lynch

HOW nauseating to observe Fianna Fail, once again, in the person of the Minister for Torture, pretending the other day that General Liam Lynch was a "free" state man.

The occasion was the unveiling of a monument in honour of the patriot.

It must be emphasised, particularly at the present time, that Liam Lynch rebelled against the attempt to impose the Provisional Government of the traitor "free" state on 26 Counties of Ireland; that he was true to death to his oath of allegiance to the Republic; and that he led the Army of the Republic in the defence of the Republic.

Is it too much to expect from traitors, from scoundrels, such as Collins and Cooney, that they let the dead rest in peace, in the honour which surrounds their lives and deaths, instead of parading their remains as supporters of cowardly, treacherous freestatery?

Liam Lynch was killed by a "free" state bullet in defence of the Republic. Surely that is enough?

Liam Lynch, like Liam O Maoliosa, Sean O Treasaigh, Cathal Brugha, Ruairi O Connor, Joe McKelvey and far too many others, did not distinguish between free-staters.

One type was considered as great a traitor as another. So it is today, when comparing any of the Leinster House parties and personalities.

They are all traitors – or fools.

Ernie O'Malley was typical of most Republicans who could think when on hearing of De Valera's Document Number Two, he withdrew his support from De Valera and vowed as much opposition to him as to other free-staters, regardless of what they called themselves – Cumann na nGaeldheal, Blueshirts, Fine Gael, Labour Party, Fianna Fail, Clann na Poblachta.

Ernie O'Malley's "The Singing Flame" (Anvil Books, £10) tells the Liam Lynch story.

'Crying out to heaven for vengeance'

THIS WEEK, Derrymen "on the blanket" in H-Block, Long Kesh, are among those suffering the full ravages of the physical rot which has set in amongst the H-Block PoWs "on the blanket".

Full reports are still to come in as visitors make their way to the Kesh to get further information.

But at least one man was seen in a visit and the woman visiting him broke down and cried on seeing his condition, despite her intention not be betray her feelings.

Eventually the screw, in the visiting box with her, found it so unnerving he left.

She saw **Eddie Harkin**, a man recently sentenced to 165 years (the longest single sentence in the Six Counties).

Eddie, until a few months ago, was one of the typically fit young men from Derry. Not any longer:

"Eddie's skin was like wax. The skin on his face is peeling and flaking off. His hair and scalp are all covered in scabies. He says the itching is terrible.

His eyes are like two big marleys. I tried to keep a good face on me for his sake but when I saw him he must have noticed my shock.

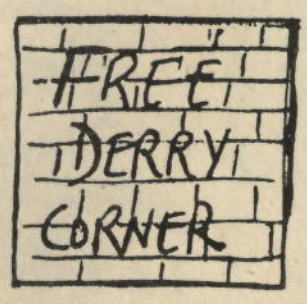
"Then I started to cry, and the screw that was with us finally was so unnerved by the crying that he left.

"This is a situation that cries out to high heaven for vengence."

Off to hospital

Another Derryman, young **Frankie Doherty**, was taken earlier in the week to Musgrave Park Hospital from his cell in H-Block where he had been on the blanket for many months.

For a long time since his blanket protest began, he has



been afflicted with stomach ulcers.

They have been so bad that his family worry constantly about them perforating.

The other day his wife told by the RUC that Frankie had been taken to Musgrave Park Hospital.

All tetempts at finding out why met with: "He has been taken for routine tests and he'll be back in 24 hours."

He was not, an attempted visit disclosed.

Callous doctors

Rumours that Frankie actually had been rushed to Musgrave Park Hospital, due to multiple fractures sustained during a beating at the hands of screws, have not yet been confirmed.

Efforts of Sinn Fein and the Republican Information Centres to help the families of those lifted and taken to the RUC in Strand Road have disclosed an alarming fact: Some Derry doctors are refusing to visit their patients while in the hands of the RUC.

In the case of one lad, James Kelly (17), lifted from his home, his last words to his parents were: "Send me in a doctor when I'm down there."

Sinn Fein acted immediately. Officials rang not only his own family doctor, Dr. Hart, but others as well, asking them to see this boy.

Dr. Hart refused. During the entire time this young lad was in the barracks **no one got near hi**
got near him.

Dr. Hart sent word through his secretary that he had asked the police if Kelly wanted to see him and they assured him that Kelly was fine and didn't wish to see him."

When his secretary was trying to palm this off on Sinn Fein, she was enlightened about some of the current interrogation techniques, of which isolation plays a large part along with beatings.

This report so rattled her that she was nearly in hysterics

(Ar leanuint ar lch. a 8)

'Irish Prisoner'

For three Issues of the "Irish Prisoner", with full details of the trials and treatment of Irish political prisoners in England, special offer, send £1 to Prisoners Aid Committee, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

Demand amnesty

Public Meeting: **Demand P.o.W. status** for Irish political prisoners in accordance with the Geneva convention.

Demand amnesty for Irish political prisoners within the context of British withdrawal from Ireland: NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields, London, WC 1. Friday May 5, 19.00 hours (nearest tube Holborn).

–Prisoners Aid Committee, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

Hands off Ireland: No 3

Hands Off Ireland: No 3. Articles include: **Jackie Kaye** – Irish Political Prioners in British Jails; **Michael Holden** – Murder Most Foul; **James Martin** – The RUC and Torture.

Price: 20p + 10p postage from RCG Publications, Ltd.(AP), 49 Railton Road, London SE24 OLN.

H - Block protest

Belfast demo
Buses will leave
at 12.00 ho
Return fare: £

BELFAST H-BLOCK PROTEST

The Relatives Action Committee attempted to stage a peaceful protest (pictured above and left) of about 30 minutes on Saturday afternoon, April 22, at 15.00 hours, in Wellington Place, Belfast, against H-Block conditions in Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

Jim Gibney made it quite clear it was to be a peaceful protest. Most of the 50 or so demonstrators were women, carrying explanatory posters. They sought to attract attention by sitting in the roadway, disrupting traffic.

But the RUC broke up the demonstration with its accustomed violence. Our photographer was nearly arrested for having the temerity to photograph the terrorist police in action.

ion: Sunday, April 30.
ssington Street, Dublin,
Saturday, April 29.
Massive support vital.

An Cumann Cabhrach

Results of the Dublin private members' draw for April 18 were: 1 (£100), R. Ryan, ticket No. 191, 2 (£50), R. Prior, 208; 3 (£25), S. Dunne, 256; 4 (£5), L. O'Brien, 226; 5 (£5), Mrs. Kehoe, 126; 6 (£5), E. Weeadick, 291; 7 (£5), N. Cronin, 216; 8 (£5), P. Purdue, 230.

Humanity shamed by H-Block

IT WAS Karl Marx who wrote, during his period of residence in London, many years ago, that no country treated its prisoners worse than England.

Marx was well qualified to make this observation, not from personal experience of prison but from his many contacts with former prison inmates.

He carried out a great deal of research into the social and economic deprivations of the English working class. Many of these people knew only too well the horrors of English prison life.

Of all those who experienced the horrors of an English jail none was treated more barbarously than the Irish political prisoner.

Men such as O'Donovan Rossa and Tom Clarke had to suffer not only the most degrading treatment in respect of their own persons but also untold agonies of the mind as they watched their friends and comrades slowly go out of their minds or die painful, lingering deaths as a result of their cruel and barbaric treatment.

Naked hatred

The passage of time has brought no relief for Irish prisoners. The torture, of course, in certain cases, has become more sophisticated; but very often the sheer naked hatred of the prison staffs for the Irish forces them to throw caution to the wind and resort to brutality of a type which can be described only as primitive.

This is not to say, of course, that such brutality is frowned upon by the British government. Quite the opposite. Indeed, the more publicised attacks, such as those which took place in Winston Green and Albany, have been condoned by the simple expedient of either having a "whitewash" trial or dismissing the allegations as "mere propaganda".

Any question of extending political status to Irish prisoners, of course, is rejected by the issuing of a bland statement to the effect that there is no such thing as political offences under British law.

One is moved to ask, then, if the British decreed that there is no such thing as wilful murder would murder cease to be an offence or events take place?

The struggle of the PoWs in H-Block, Long Kesh concentration camp, and Crumlin Road Prison, as well as those in Armagh Prison and English prisons, is a rejection of the British claim.

The mere selection of March 1, 1976, in no way can remove the existance of an established fact, any more than can a declaration that famine does not exist in some countries simply because it is absent in others.

No parallel

The naked protest against the attempts to describe Irish Republican soldiers as criminals has no parallel in any other country, either now or in the past, with one solitary exception, that of the late Seán McCaughey, a soldier of the I.R.A., who existed for four long weary years in a Portlaoise Prison cell in a state of nakedness during the late 'forties.

His trials and sufferings came to an end only when he embarked firstly on a hunger strike and, finally, on a thirst strike, which resulted in his death.

Then as now Church and State ignored or else distorted the facts of his protest and sufferings. His struggle against criminilisation was followed by only a few and all attempts to have him treated as a human being failed.

At the inquest one of the witnesses, the prison governor stated publicly that he would not have treated his dog in the manner in which Seán McCaughey had been treated.

Today more than 30 years later, we have not one but more than 300 engaged in a struggle for recognition as prisoners of war. They must be given all the support possible before they, too, are forced to take the same measures as McCaughey, with the same tragic results.

Intensive campaign

Internal pressure, such as marches, of themselves will be worse than useless. At best, the only positive result will be to give the impression that something is being done and of course give some encouragement to the prisoners.

What is essential is maintenance of an intensive campaign at home and abroad to make people fully aware of what is taking place in H-Block and urge them to exert all possible pressure on every group and organisation of note to combat such people to come out and openly condemn such treatment.

At the same time a similar campaign must be begun on the Continent and in the U.S.A.

Those regimes which are under constant criticism by Britain and her allies must be fully briefed as to what is taking place in the prisons, both in Britain and Ireland.

Differences of opinion with regards to the structures of these countries must not allow us to blind ourselves to the potential assistance they can offer in terms of being able to counter Britain's accusations against them while all the time Britain herself is engaged in acts of brutality, torture and degrading treatment within her own area of responsibility.

Individual aid

Those who argue against such tactics would do well to ponder that fact that the oppressed black people and others have no compunction in seeking British help despite Britain's known record in the field of the denial of human rights.

Individuals who wish to help but who do not know how are advised to write to Rome, to heads of state, the Red Cross, the President of the USA and, indeed, to anyone whom they think can be influenced.

H-Block is a running sore and a disgrace to humanity. It is an even greater disgrace when one sees the lack of comment from public figures, Church leaders and the national and local press.

Must we wait until a coffin or coffins come out of H-Block before public opinion is roused?

Over the years I have observed with a certain amount of cynicism that when a prisoner dies from whatever cause there are literally thousands eager and willing to carry his coffin.

What a pity the same people are not equally eager and willing to carry his cross.

—Mac Liam

Safe in Sweden

Royal Marine Commando Brian Moran (22), who has been granted political asylum in Sweden gave as one of the reasons for desertion from the Crown forces their "indiscriminate abuse" of Catholics in the north-east when questioned by newspapermen.

Na Fianna Éireann

The future of Ireland lies in the hands of the youth of Ireland

SECURE THE FUTURE

JOIN FIANNA ÉIREANN
44 Cearnóg Pharnell,
Baile Átha Cliath.

Ireland: British Labour and British Imperialists

Pamphlet arguing for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and the right of the Irish people to self-determination. Detailed critique of the demand for a Bill of Rights. Now in third print.

Price: 25p + 10p postage from RCG Publications, Ltd. (AP), 49 Railton Road, London SE 24 OLN.

Le RÍSTEARD BEHAL

Threat to political asylum

THE EVER increasing repressive power of the right on the Continent and the erosion of the principle of political asylum took another turn with the arrest, at his Paris home, of Antonio Bellavita. An Italian, Bellavita was co-founder and director of "Controinformazione", a left magazine opposed to all types of imperialism and frequently referring to Ireland.

Bellavita had to flee to France in 1974 after the Carabinieri found files and tapes which he was researching for a book on armed struggle in Europe.

Three warrants were issued, charging him with "subversive association" and public incitement against the state. It sounds very familiar to Irish Republicans.

Bellavita has been living as a political refugee openly in France and was employed by the daily newspaper, "Liberation".

Last year, two of his brothers were arrested and went on 23 days of hunger strike because Italian police seized editorial material being prepared for "Controinformazione".

They were released after thousands of workers demonstrated and hundreds of journalists signed a statement alleging that they were being held because of journalistic and political opinions only.

If Bellavita is extradited to Italy it will be a further grave blow to the legal protection of persons against extradition in political cases.

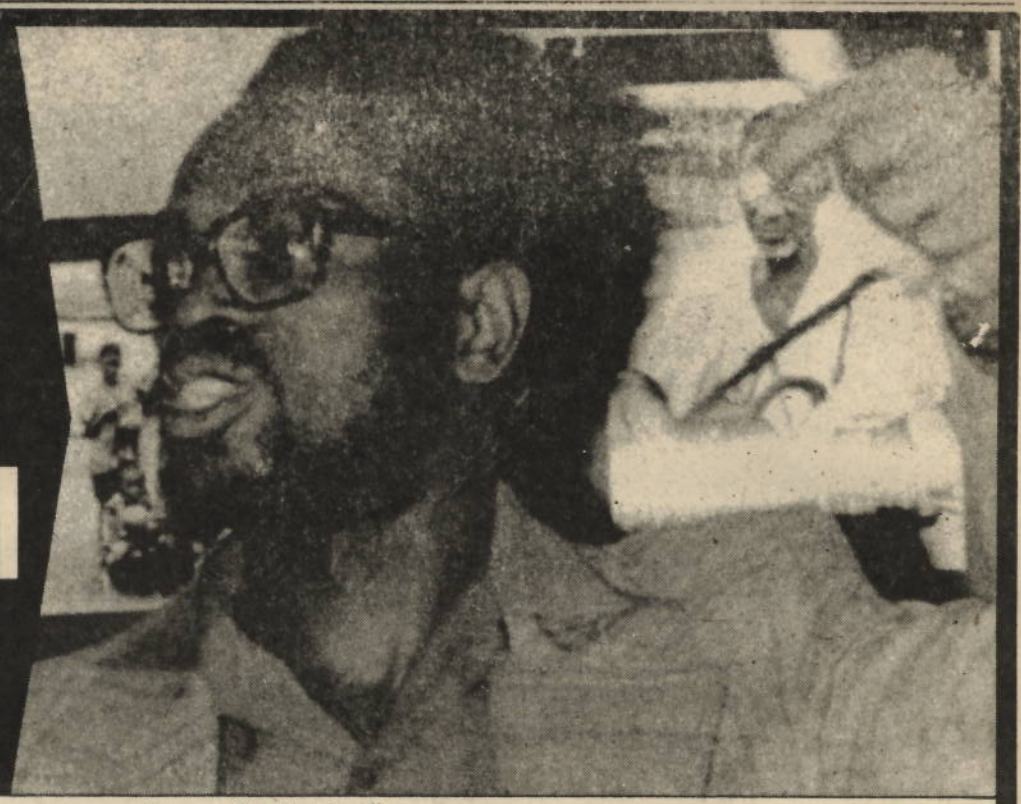
Last year, a dangerous precedent was set with the handing over by the French authorities to the Federal German police of Klaus Croissant, the defence lawyer of the urban guerriallas.

This whole matter is of considerable importance and concern to the Irish struggle. It was following the example set by the British – "Free" State Jurisdiction Law, 1974, that the Council of Europe drew up its own European Convention against Terrorism.

In effect, it means that if these laws are allowed to take root by back-door methods Irish Republicans can be persecuted on trumped up charges in the Six or the 26 Counties and even extradited to Britain if arrested while on a political speaking tour in continental Europe.

Letters of protest should be sent to both the French and Italian embassies in Dublin and other messages of support to: "Liberation", 27, Rue de Lorraine, 75019 Paris, France.

CALL TO STEP UP FREEDOM FIGHT



Picture: "The New Line"

Arthur Chadzingwe at the London meeting: "We will continue to hit the enemy hard."

A CALL for immediate intensification of the Zimbabwe freedom struggle to defeat the Smith regime and its collaborators was made last week by the London representative of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union, Arthur Chadzingwa.

Chadzingwa told a London meeting that ZAPU totally condemned the so-called internal settlement between Smith and the stooge African Leaders.

The deal had been reached with the aid of British and American imperialism, he said.

He pledged: "We wish to state that we will continue to hit the enemy hard inside Zimbabwe in order to bring about genuine majority rule which will enable our country to live in peace with its neighbours."

Fascism, he said, was an evil whether practised by a black man or a white man.

"It must be crushed wherever it exists," he said. Attacking British and US support for the internal deal, he asked:

Gaping wounds

"Do they believe that legitimising Smith's regime will make the Zimbabwe people forget the atrocities he has committed against them?

"Can all these gaping wounds be healed simply by parading black puppets in Salisbury? Do the British and Americans honestly believe that the so-called internal settlement will bring peace to this region?"

The Salisbury deal had drawn a clear line of demarcation between the people's enemies and the people's friends, Chadzingwa said.

The Patriotic Front was more than ever determined to continue the bitter struggle to attain freedom and genuine independence.

He went on: "Accordingly, it is our common bond to ensure the immediate intensification of our war effort to defeat the fascist Smith, the collaborator gang of four, and the evil Anglo-American machinations."

Chadzingwa attacked the slanted pro-Smith, propaganda of the British media, accusing them of massive fabrications about the Zimbabwe people's demand for freedom and complete independence.

"The British press does not condemn the Rhodesian troops who rape, beat, torture, maim and murder our people, yet all successive Rhodesian racist governments have effected this affliction in our country for nearly a century." he said.

"Now that talking and speechifying at Geneva and Malta have failed, the gun will succeed at all costs," Chadzingwa concluded.

Owen warns of war

BRITISH Foreign Secretary David Owen, back in London from his visit to southern Africa, told the Commons last week that failure to find a negotiated Rhodesia settlement could result in a war involving all the neighbouring states.

But he admitted in reply to Tory spokesman John Davies – a supporter of the so-called internal settlement deal – that a negotiated ceasefire might not be possible.

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Rev. Mac Greil's opinion of idealists

SOMETIME ago it was proposed to expel Rev. Michael Mac Greil, S.J., from the Gaelic League because of his continued remarks about our common links with Mother England and the debt of friendship we owed her.

There is now a move to have him elected president of the Gaelic League.

Before any of your readers who are members of Conradh na Gaeilge make up their minds on the matter, I would like them to check the following facts.

Father Mac Greil spent a number of years training and being trained in the gentle art of killing.

To put it bluntly he held the rank of captain in the "Free" State Army before he decided to embark on a clerical career.

About 25 years ago, I and a fellow separatist took part in a public discussion with our one-time military friend in the Town Hall, Droichead Nua on the subject of nationality.

The discussion was bilingual. Let me recall that Captain Mac Greil was in "Free" State uniform for the occasion.

He happened to speak at length on what he was pleased to call "the will of the people," conveniently denying the basic truth of the matter that most of our major national decisions are the result of THE FEAR of the people. FEAR of harrassment, intimidation, financial pressure, etc.

As a matter of fact, I dare not put my name to this letter because I happen to be in a particularly vunerable position as far as the 26 Counties authorities are concerned.

But you have published letters from me before, and are aware of my identity. Should you print this letter, I shall take a chance on sending a copy of "An Phoblacht" to the reverend gentleman, who may feel like turning it over to the cops in Dublin as he will remember quite well who I am.

In the course of my very few remarks that night I stressed the fact that we who held to the narrow path of freedom and fair play for all, obtained our very few gains only because of our grim determination, ruthlessness and energy.

Capt. Mac Greil, (affectionately known in the officers' mess on the Curragh as "Mad Mick") dismissed my remarks by saying that it was futile to think that a small handful of idealists ever could hope to achieve anything worthwhile.

Now that he has taken to wearing a Roman collar, (and I happen to be a Franciscan Tertiary myself for 20 years) I would like to remind Father Mac Greil that only 12 men followed the man from Nazareth. And one of them betrayed him.

The same man it was who said: "I bring not peace but a sword."

And St. Luke (22.36) declares: "And he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."

Incidentally, I am not an "old I.R.A." man. There is no such animal. Either I belong to Oglaigh na hEireann or have left it. At the age of 74, I am afraid the most I can do is use the pen and the spoken word. You are at liberty to check and countercheck everything I have said above.

—Seanduine,
Baile Atha Cliath.

Students' congress

REFERENCE your recent report of the students' condemnation of RUC torture of political suspects, the students made it clear that when complaints of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment were made against the RUC, and rejected, due to "lack of evidence", such "lack of evidence" was due promarily to RUC obstructions and what has been termed "the stony wall of silence".

The Congress drew attention to the fact that 80 per cent. of convictions for "serious crimes" were based on statements alone. The Queen's University, Belfast, statement on torture believed "only a minority of the RUC to be responsible for these acts of torture".

That was disputed, one delegate pointing out that torture was "general policy" and that a good number of men were involved.

The Congress accepted that those in authority knew of these many cases of torture but that no action was taken against those responsible for such atrocities.

The delegate who put forward this motion, from Derry Tech., stated that the motion, as proposed by Queen's University, was inadequate, in dealing with torture, and completely ignored the plight of political prisoners in Ireland and England.

While dealing with torture in RUC barracks, it completely ignored psychological torture on the streets by both troops and RUC.

The Derry delegate cited also the attempts to coerce the families of Irish political prisoners into submission, via harassment at the prison camps and on the buses on which they travel to visit their relatives.

Not republican

AFTER LISTENING to Tomás Mac Giolla's address on TV recently I find it difficult to understand how this man and his party can continue to call themselves republicans.

They call themselves Sinn Féin the Workers' Party. Do they not know that Sinn Féin means "ourselves", meaning the Irish people? If so, why then does Mac Giolla call for a new 70 to 80-seat assembly in the six counties?

By doing this, Mac Giolla is advocating British involvement in the future of our country. Therefore this party is forfeiting the right to call itself Sinn Féin or republican.

In the Six Counties the Workers' Party uses the title "Republican Clubs". This is another title which I fail to understand.

A short time ago a motion was passed by Newry and Mourne District Council, calling on Britain to give a declaration of intent to withdraw from our country.

This motion was proposed by a member of the Irish Independence Party. Immediately an attack was launched on the Independence Party by the Republican Clubs for suggesting such a motion.

In that attack, the "Free" State premier, Lynch, and Archbishop Ó Fiach were condemned for advocating British withdrawal.

The Republican Clubs, by their condemnation of the views of those people, have forfeited the right to call themselves republicans.

—Pat Finnegan,
Dun Dealgan, Co. Lu.

CLASS STRUGGLE

Help or hindrance in revolutionary struggle ?

A MAN wrote me to this effect the other day: "Writing on a class basis is divisive. You are in danger of setting Republicans against Republicans, of starting a minor civil war in the Movement. You should be seeking to provide a basis for unity rather than of dissension".

Yet James Connolly urged that the issue of the class struggle should be kept to the fore and warned that those who would have us ban the use of such a term should be highly suspect.

This quotation is included among those chosen by his daughter, Nora, and contained in the pamphlet published recently by a unit of the Republican Movement.

But maybe I have not been sufficiently clear in what I mean by "class".

By this I mean that mass of the people whose instincts have not been corrupted by imperialism or neo-colonialism or capitalism in any form; that highly respectable body of people, usually small farmers or wage-workers, whose ambition it is that Ireland be free from the mountains to the sea of foreign rule, and that production and the means of production be owned and controlled by the people in the interests of the people.

Cast of mind

I said, above: "Usually small farmers or wage-workers" because the right cast of class mind may be found occasionally in products of other classes just as, unfortunately, traitors to our preferred class may be found within that very class.

le Deasún Breatnach

Most of us are familiar with the parody on the song, "Red Flag", about the worker who "got the foreman's job at last", just as we are only too bitterly aware of the tyranny of the sub-contractor, one who once was a wage-worker but who, now, lives and prospers on the sweat on the brows of his "team".

Thus, it must become clear that putting matters on the class basis and using class as the measuring rod is unifying rather than divisive.

It is the cast of mind that counts. We are for Irish freedom at all levels. We start with the basic assumption that none of our problems can be solved or even approached intelligently until the national problem has been solved, forcing the enemy to quit Ireland forever.

In control

But freedom does not end there. Forcing the imperialists – be they SAS or CIA – to quit Ireland is only the beginning.

The Irish worker must be able to enjoy his earnings to the full. He must be able to control his own destiny at the local level, at the regional level, at the provincial level, at the federal level, at the national level. He must be in control throughout, in place of today's faceless men.

Today, the economy is controlled and operated in the interests of private profit for the few, regardless of the interests of the many.

Tomorrow, when our preferred class is in control, private interest and private profit will be ended. The country will be run in the general interest of people that a classless society must result eventually.

The ideology of that society has been partly worked out in the past, as we have been trying to show here, by our own people and by neighbours.

The process continues in this decade in the Éire Nua documents; in the discussions which they have inspired, particularly among the men and women in the fighting line, whether still active or in jail; and, of course, at ardfheiseanna of Sinn Féin.

Against experience

All the time this evolution within the revolution is being checked against the sharp experiences of people thrown into conflict with gombeenism by its crudest officers, the armed soldiers of the Crown forces.

This, however, is gombeenism at only one level, at its crudest. The system is exposed clearly to the people at other levels – joblessness, sectarianism, national wage agreements; the pitting of town versus country; the plunder of mines, fisheries and other natural resources; manipulation of the media; the modern version of bread and circuses – sex, drink, drugs, TV violence (bringing huge profits to those in control).

Women have become the most vocal in many parts of our country not only because they have been the most exploited (Connolly called them the slave's slave) but because, of their nature, women have been the most realistic; and it has become obvious to them that today they can win, they can liberate themselves and the people in general.

This is not to suggest that women's liberation is the answer. Often this is merely a camouflaged, capitalist manoeuvre to divide its enemies into warring males and females.

True women's liberation cannot be divorced from male liberation. Man and woman together, armed with the right ideology, knowing the enemy, schooled in the way of destroying him, will liberate themselves simultaneously.

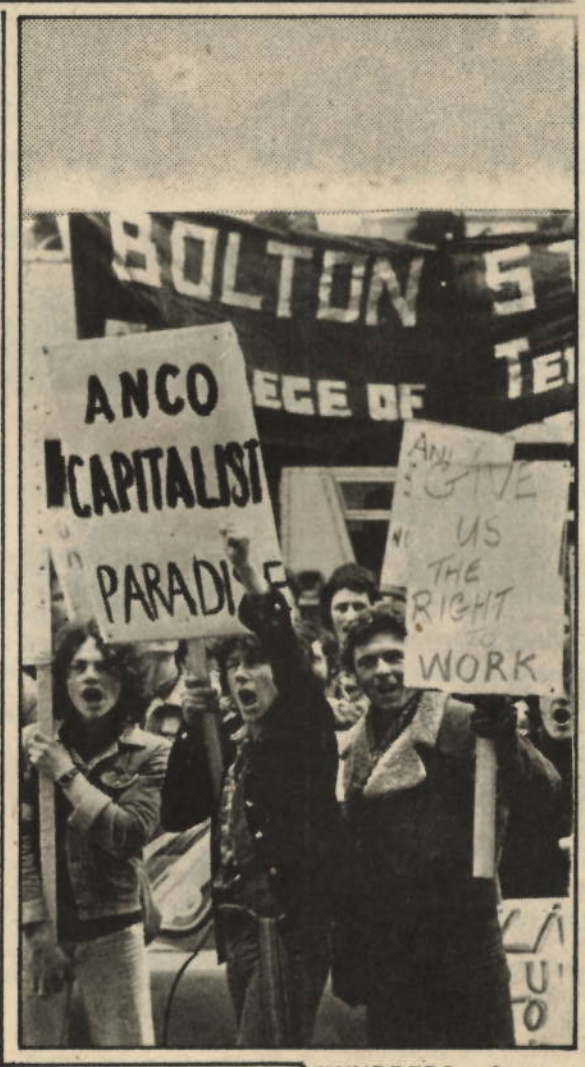
Man plus woman

Man and woman, together, constitute a team. Capitalism divides them to conquer them.

It was man and woman, together, who won the land war in the Land League. It was man and woman together who forced the imperialist enemy to recognise the Republic and to seek a truce, at the end of the Tan War.

It is man and woman, together, today, who are fighting with bomb and bullet to force the enemy to withdraw forever from Ireland; and it is man and woman together, within the party, who are winning the peace.

Is this conception of class divisive? Is it not that of our experience of revolt over more than 800 years? And is not our socialism among the most advanced, not only because it is checked and balanced by experience but also because it is not dogmatic, not a thing cut and dried in changless theory provided by men turned into gods but a continually evolving revolutionary experience cogwheeled to reality?



HUNDREDS of apprentices, backed by many trade unionists and members of the Union of Students in Ireland, Marched through Dublin on April 19 to demonstrate outside the offices of An Chomhairle Ealaine (AnCO).

They were protesting about the way AnCO is treating the training and education of apprentices.

Paul O'Sullivan (USI) told the demonstrates his union was very worried by recent AnCO actions. He accused the Authority of reducing the amount of general education in apprenticeship training. Everything was being sacrificed to training.

The apprentices and USI also were worried that AnCO are setting up new apprentice training centres in towns where vocational education committees already were providing adequate training facilities.

The students also complained that apprentices made redundant did not qualify for redundancy payments and that little was being done to help redundant apprentices.

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PP's comment on violence

UNTIL FAIRLY recently a favourite phrase with commentators on current events in the north was "men of violence".

There is not quite so much of it now. Instead, we are hearing "godfathers of violence", a handy term borrowed from American literature.

Both phrases are applied in the first place, explicitly or by allusion, to the Provisional IRA. Also, very occasionally, to the loyalist paramilitaries: though, indeed, it must be said that at present, as far as we here are allowed to know, these are comparatively quiescent.

But the phrases are not applied at all to the British authorities, though these too have authorised or committed many acts of violence.

Violence? Yes, such acts as the deliberate massacre of 14 innocent people in Derry; the killing of the little boy, Kevin Heatley, in Newry; of Majella O'Hare at Whitecross; of Peter Cleary by the SAS on the border of south Armagh.

With the circumstance of this last case I have some reason to be familiar, Some 10 days previously Peter had been with me to make final arrangements for his marriage which was to take place in this Parish of Fochart.

On the night in question he walked the few yards across the Border to the home of his fiancee, where he found her among a group of neighbours, several of them my own parishioners.

The house was surrounded by the SAS, using very foul language, indeed, and Peter was taken into an unoccupied house close by, physically ill-treated there, dragged or carried out to an adjoining field and there shot.

One speculates on the curious reticence of commentators on cases of violence of this sort.

The British in the North, of course, have all the trappings of authority, with acts of parliament behind them and, indeed, we are given to understand, the best of intentions, namely, the righteous purpose of keeping us Irish from killing each other.

One is led to assume, therefore, that they have a mandate for their presence in the North and their activity, or inactivity, there. But have our commentators gone deep enough into the question?

This mandate: Where does it come from or on what is it based? When it comes to fundamentals the British mandate is based on nothing valid at all. Essentially, their presence in our country is in complete conflict with justice, the just right of a country not to be imposed upon by a foreign power.

Here is where our commentators should start and, from this principle clearly established and accepted, they can go on to consider the wisest and best solution to the whole northern problem.

–(An Canónach)

Diarmuid Mac Íomhair, Cill an Churraigh, Dún Dealgan, Co. Lú.

Class struggle

COMMENTING on the publication, "The Work of Justice: Irish Bishops Pastoral", issued some months ago, and the campaign on justice in our time in Ireland promised by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, Deasún Breatnach suggested in his article "Why priest died with gun in his hand" (An Phoblacht, 5/4/78), that as there is no sign of the promised campaign and not a word about H–Block or the Castlereagh tortures, "Republicans might very well carry out the campaign on justice that the Roman Catholic bishops promised".

The "Justice" pamphlet, which led off with the age-old, basic precept of Christianity that we do not truly love God unless we love also our fellow-men, **unless it is acted upon** – Pope John XXIII had a lot to say about the failure of the clergy and laity to publicise and activate the social teaching of the Church – such teaching with its social revolutionary implications is destined to become, not a spring of action, but additional discussion material for mainly middle-class study clubs at the Dublin Institute of Catholic Sociology, cosy symposiums at Mount Mellerary, Red Island, University College, Galway and the countless Irish stamping grounds of learned theologians and the Acquinas brigade.

The encyclicals of the popes on justice contain explicit condemnation of capitalism but this fact is largely unknown in Ireland.

As F.J. Sheed, famous Catholic author and publisher, put it 40 years ago in his book, "Communism and Man": "Yet one might search Marx himself through and through for a more deadly criticism of Capitalism than is to be found in the Papal Encyclicals.

"I have never met a Communist who so much as suspects that these Papal attacks upon the present system exist".

My own experience has been that many of the Irish clergy are just as unsuspecting as many of our Communist brethren, but for the latter there is some excuse.

There is no excusing those archbishops, bishops, monsignori and parish priests whom Deasún Breatnach criticises for their silence on the inhuman, degrading treatment meted out to Irish patriotic prisoners and their Trappist-like code when it comes to "the capitalist state which encourages avarice, thus building exploitation and oppression and homelessness into the constitution of the state".

F.J. Sheed ascribed this fault of the clergy to "blindness in the intellect" rather than a grave fault in the will.

On the capitalist state Pius XI (Quadragesimo Anno) is not so charitable, and says: "The State which should be the supreme arbitor, ruling in kingly fashion for above all party

(Ar leanuint ar lch. a 8)

COMHBHRÓN

★

Seamus, who was killed in an accident at Kilroot Power Station, Co. Antrim, on April 16, was a lifelong socialist and Republican, and is deeply missed by his friends, particularly by Jim O'Neill Tony Doherty and Sean Meehan. Ar dheis Dé go raibh se.

★

A commemorative Sean O Riada Mass will be celebrated at 09.00 hours, Sun., April 30, in the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Howth, for the repose of the soul of **Emmet Humphries,** the brother of Sile Humphries, and who served in 1916 in Na Fianna Eireann, and in Oglaigh na hEireann in the Tan War and the War in Defence of the Republic.

He died a year ago. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam uasal.

SF Co-op.s in drive for jobs

HOWTH CUMANN SHOWS WAY

A NEWLY FORMED Sinn Fein cumann is putting party policy into instant action by forming co-operatives, canvassing jobs and putting unemployed persons to work on them.

It is the Paul Duffy Cumann in Binn Eadair (Howth) and, as well as the co-op. activities it publishes a fortnightly newsheet, "Howth Republican".

A spokesman told "An Phoblacht": "One co-op. will buy fish from the boats in the harbour and sell it in the surrounding district.

"The Cumann voted us money to buy a van body and engine and we hope to have the van moving this week.

"We have also bought a 14 ft. fibreglass boat which we call Asgard 11 but which is known locally as the 'people's boat'. We have 100 yards of net as well.

"Eventually we hope to catch fish from this boat, then sell it from the van.

Dole money

"We started the paint co-op. when a few of us chipped in £10 each from dole money.

"In four days' work painting houses recently we made £100.

"Estimates are free. Our policy is to make money to employ more – we have three fully employed at present.

"Eventually we would hope to provide co-op. jobs for skilled workmen of all kinds and unskilled helpers in a wide variety of lines."

Readers who require painting jobs done are invited to contact: **Mrs. Josephine Brady Tel. 323286).**

For more cumann information or to send news items for the newssheet, contact: **Paddy Burns (Tel. 325700).**

● This Cumann was formed in early March last and takes its name from the young Tyrone man murdered in Ardboe by the SAS in the first week of that month.

Dublin H-Block protest

THE O'Connell Street, Dublin office of Bord Failte Eireann was occupied for an hour on Saturday, April 22, by Sinn Fein members, as part of the countrywide protest to highlight conditions in H-Block, Long Kesh, where prisoners are carrying on their fight for Prisoner of War Status.

Outside the B.F. office other members handed out leaflets and explained to the large crowd who had gathered what the protest was all about.

The newspapers, TV and Radio were informed of the protest but, as usual, chose to ignore it, thus aligning themselves with the imperialist alliance of Westminister-Leinster House.

Plebiscite on Derry ?

WOLFE Tone Cumann, Sinn Fein, Derry, has urged a phebiscite on the question of calling Derry officially by its traditional 1,000 year old name.

Lawyers worried for prisoners' health

THE ASSOCIATION for Legal Justice, in a statement in Belfast, said it was worried by the growing number of reports from distressed relatives and others concerning the gravely deteriorating Three and Five in Long Kesh.

"It is our view," according to the statement, "that the Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners are being gravely neglected by the prison authorities in their avid determination to deny any accommodation whatsoever with these prisoners in their care.

"In the name of humanity cannot such an accommodation be found?

"Reports reaching us that one prisoner from H-Block Five is at this moment in the prison hospital with split lips and a black eye, and that another named prisoner was beaten up on March 11 last, are symptomatic of the growing violence inherent in the situation."

Impartial outside examination was required urgently, the ALJ stressed.

It had urged intervention by the International Red Cross, Amnesty International and the World Council of Churches, it stated.

Last week more than 20 Loyalist prisoners were transferred from H-Block to Magilligan for refusing to slop out the cells of striking Republicans.

Smuggled from jail

THE REPUBLICAN Press Centre, Belfast, has been asked to release the following statement from the P.R.O. of the Blanket men in H-Blocks, Long Kesh, smuggled out of the jail.

On Tuesday, April 18, screws hosed down the corridors and, in many cases, stuck the hose into the top of the cell doors, splashing men.

On Wednesday, April 19, buckets full of urine were thrown round J.J. O'Neill, an Armagh man.

On Thursday, April 20, lockers, tables and mats were removed from the cells.

On Friday, April 21, two men were taken to hospital: **Sean Fitzsimons** Turf Lodge, Belfast and **Gerry Deers**, Derry city.

Men have been taken ill with a strange complaint. They have a sore throat. Head and legs are in pain all over.

Their names are: **Tom McAlwee**, South Derry; **Dan McGuinness**, South Armagh; **Paddy Wilson** and **Bobby Sands**, Andersonstown, Belfast.

After his cell had been hosed Belfastman **Finbarr McKenna** slipped and fell. He thinks his arm is broken. Screws gave him two painkillers, the effect of which have now worn off. He can't sleep.

Convention in Dundalk

A SINN Fein convention to select candidates for the next local government elections in the "Free" State will be held in the Hotel Imperial, Dundalk, on June 4, beginning at 15.30 hours.

The meeting will be open to the general public.

DEFENCE FUND

Republicans are asked to help the defence fund of the Liffey Dockyard workers by sending subscriptions to Liffey Dockyard Support Group, 6 Gardiner Row, Baile Atha Cliath, 1.

BODENSTOWN

Wolfe Tone will be honoured in Bodenstown this year on Sunday June 11.

Torture probe for Dublin

AN INDEPENDENT public inquiry into the abuse and torture of prisoners in Ireland will take place in Dublin next month. The convenor is Rev. Prarás Ó Dúill.

The National Resistance Campaign Committee is giving full support to this inquiry.

Its members are: Liam Hanaway, Chairman (Sinn Fein); Jimmy Brown, vice-chairman (IRSP); Eilis Carlisle, secretary (Relatives Action Committee); James Daly, PRO (IRSP); John McGeown (Movement for a Socialist Republic); Brian McAteer (People's Democracy); and Redmond O'Hanlon (Irish Civil Rights Association).

Postbag Postmhála

(Ar leanúint ó lch. a 7)

contention, intent only upon justice and the common good, has become instead a slave, bound over to the service of human passion and greed".

Not only, therefore, has the Republican Movement the right to carry out the campaign on justice promised months ago by the bishops, but it is a duty already undertaken by the Éire Nua programme and, as the Irish Republican Movement has always won the most idealistic young men and women of the nation to its flag, it alone has the potential to ensure that justice in our time in Ireland will not become a mere slogan but a social reality.

It would be completely wrong thinking for Republicans to wait for the Hierarchy, monsignori and parish priests to lead or to activate or to mobilise a campaign for Irish justice.

The clergy are the custodians of faith and morals with a duty to teach.

It is the duty of working-men and women, as Pope John so often stressed, to take action in the political, social and economic field.

Man as an intelligent being is expected to function on his own and his neighbour's behalf.

Whatever about the bishops, our place as Republicans is beside the poor, the homeless, the tortured, the prisoners and all the oppressed.

As Connolly said on January 19, 1916, in the "Workers Republic": "We say, yes, we are all the keeprs of our brothers and sisters, and responsible for them'.".

—M. Ó Callanáin, Barrington Road, London, Sasana.

Débé

(Ar leanúint ó lch. a 2)

Is mór an náire é ach is beag duine ar na saolta seo a fhaigheann oideachas maith Gaeilge, rud a chuideódh leis obair Uí Ainle a mheas agus a mholadh mar is cóir.

An té a bhfuil an fonn sin air, mar atá feabhas a chur ar a oideachas Gaeilge, gheobhaidh sé caoi chun a dhéanta sa saothar seo, gan an t-ábhar a bheith ró-chasta ach é spéisiúil i gcónaí. Ní beag sin.

Saothar eile a mholaim do scoláirí scairte mar mise tá "Nua-Dhuanaire" (cuid a tri) le **Tomás Ó Concheanainn (Institiúid Ardléinn Bhaile Átha Cliath, £3.60).**

Amhráin na ndaoine atá againn anseo, na cinn is mó tá i mbéal na ndaoine; agus ar an ábhar sin amháin is mór is fiú an leabhar, go mór mór i n-ollscoileanna na bpríosún.

Ní thuigim cén fáth nach bhfuil an ceol breactha in éindí leis na véarsaí. Agus nach bhféadfaí téipeanna a chur ar fáil in éindí leis an leabhar agus na fir is mná is fearr ar an sean-nós ag gabháil na bhfonn orthu sin?

Mar sin féin is sladmhargadh an leabhar seo. Faigh laithreach é sul má théann sé as cló.

As lár an chogaidh

FROM THE WAR ZONE

SUN., APRIL 16.

Strabane: Two booby trap bombs in creamery cans, discovered on Flushtown Bridge, were defused by enemy forces.

Dunloy: Twelve shots were fired at a Crown froces (RUC) mobile patrol on Tullyhagas Road.

TUES., APRIL 18

Portglenone: A member of the Crown forces (RUC reserve) was injured seriously when shots were fired at the police station.

SAT., APRIL 22.

Lisburn: A member of the Crown forces (RUC) was shot dead at his home.

Sinn Féin, north Leitrim

Damn your concessions, England, we want our country.

Annual commemoration in honour of Sean Mac Diarmada

Kiltyclogher Sunday, May 7
Straduffy Cross, 15.00 hours.

Oration by George Stagg.

'We love them yet, we can't forget the felons of our land'.

Arna fhoilsiu ag "An Phoblacht", 44 Cearnog Pharnell, B.A.C. 1, EIRE.